

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey: PG# 68-4-34 Building Date: c.1907

Building Name: Palmer House

Location: 4804 Sheridan Street, Riverdale, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Fair/Inaccessible

Description

The Palmer House (Block 16, Lot 10, Riverdale Park) is a two-story, two-by-two bay frame Foursquare. The house rests on a poured concrete foundation and has a hip roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. A hip-roof dormer is centered in the south (main) slope of the roof. A shed-roof porch wraps around the first story of the main (south) facade and the west elevation. The porch retains its original simple Doric-style wooden columns. To the rear (north) of the main block is a small, one-story hip roof addition with a rectangular plan. In the east slope of the main roof is a brick chimney. The house is sheathed with narrow-gauge white vinyl siding and throughout the house there are modern, vinyl-clad, 1/1, replacement windows. The main (south) facade entry door is a modern replacement. Although the interior of the house has been altered, the original plan is intact as are several trim details in the entry/stair hall. There is new flooring throughout the first floor. Near the northeast corner of the house is an older, detached, wood-frame, single-car garage.

Significance

The Palmer House is an example of the modest vernacular dwellings built in the developing suburb of Riverdale Park throughout the late 19th and early 20th century. Although it has been altered and some of the original details have been lost, the house retains much of its exterior form, interior plan, and detail. The location of the Palmer House, near the northern boundary of the original Riverdale Park subdivision, represents a significant early 20th century development trend in what was then a rapidly growing suburb. Assessment records indicate that the house was built by Daisy B. and Richard E. Palmer by 1907, when the town's area of earliest settlement, around the railroad station and the Riversdale mansion, had been largely developed. The location of the Palmer House represents the continued outward expansion of the developing community through the early 20th century. Early census records list Richard Palmer's occupation as "insurance collector". The Palmers retained ownership of the house until 1912.

Acreage: 9,000 sq.ft.

Survey No. ^{pg} 68-4-34

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Palmer House

and/or common 4804 Sheridan Street (Preferred)

2. Location

street & number 4804 Sheridan Street not for publication

city, town Riverdale vicinity of congressional district 5th

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation
	<u> </u> not applicable	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name David R. Hiles and Jennie C. Reinhardt

street & number 4804 Sheridan Street telephone no.:

city, town Riverdale state and zip code Maryland 20737

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 7803

street & number Main Street folio 270

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

PG:
Survey No. 68-4-34

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Exterior

The Palmer House (Block 16, Lot 10, Riverdale Park) is a two-story, two-by-two bay frame foursquare. The house rests on a poured concrete foundation and has a hip roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. Centered within the main (south) slope of the roof is a hip roof dormer. A shed roof porch wraps around the first story of the main (south) facade and west elevation. The porch retains its original simple doric-style wooden supports. To the rear (north) of the main block of the house is a small one-story hip roof addition with a rectangular plan. In the east slope near the center of the roof is a brick chimney.

The house is sheathed with narrow-gauge white vinyl siding. Throughout the house there are modern, vinyl-sash 1/1 replacement windows. With the exception of those of rear (north) facade, all windows are framed with modern aluminum shutters.

The main entry is located in the west bay of the main facade. The metal and glass entry door is a modern replacement. To the west of the entry door is a small double-hung window. The east bay of the first story main facade contains an attached pair of double-hung windows. Both bays of the second story contain double-hung windows.

The first story of the east elevation contains a shallow projecting hexagonal bay to the south. In the north bay there is an attached pair of double-hung windows to the north. Both bays of the second story contain double-hung windows.

Across three-quarters of the rear (north) elevation is a one-story addition with a rectangular plan and a shallow hip roof. Centered on the north wall of the addition is a double-hung window. At the western edge of the addition's north wall (at grade) is a six-panel metal replacement door. At the western edge of the main block is a double-hung window. Double-hung windows are widely spaced across the second story.

The only fenestration of the first story of the west elevation is a shallow projecting hexagonal bay (identical to that of the east elevation) to the north. The projecting bay is sheltered by the wraparound porch which extends to the northern end of the west elevation. In the north bay of the second story are two, closely-spaced double-hung windows.

Interior

The interior of the house is simply organized and detailed. Each floor has four rooms of varying sizes. On the first floor, the rooms are connected to each other with round or flat arched openings. On the second floor, each room is accessed from a narrow east-west hall. The flooring of the first floor has been replaced with a variety of modern materials. Throughout the house, the simple floor moldings and window and door surrounds remain.

In the southwest corner of the first floor is the entry/stair hall. The stair, which rises along the west wall, retains its original handrail, spindles and newel which are neo-classical in inspiration. Beneath the stair is a round arched opening for a shallow coat closet. From the entry hall, a large round arched opening leads to the living room to the east. North from the entry hall through a pair of multi-light french doors, is the dining room. Both the living room and dining room are lighted by projecting hexagonal bays. In the northeast corner of the main block is the kitchen. North of the kitchen in the one-story addition, are a modern bathroom and a large pantry with stairs leading to the cellar.

The second floor contains three bedrooms and a single bathroom. The bathroom is located in the northwest corner of the floor and the smallest of the three bedrooms is in the northeast corner. Each of the upstairs rooms retains original multi-paneled wooden doors and transoms.

Garage

To the north and east of the house is a single-car, front-gable frame garage. The gable of the south (main) facade and the north (rear) elevation are sheathed with asphalt shingles. The east and west elevations of the garage are sheathed with white vinyl siding. The garage entry contains vertical board and cross panel wooden doors. Centered on the west elevation is an attached pair of 6/6 double-hung wood sash windows.

8. Significance

Survey No. ^{PG:} 68-4-34

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates C.1907

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Palmer House at 4804 Sheridan Street (Block 16, Lot 10, Riverdale Park) a frame Foursquare, is an example of the modest vernacular dwellings built in the developing suburb of Riverdale Park throughout the late 19th and early 20th century. Although it has been altered and some of the original details have been lost, the house retains much of its exterior form, interior plan and detail. The location of the Palmer House, near the northern boundary of the original Riverdale Park subdivision, represents early 20th century development trends in what was then a rapidly growing suburb. By the early years of this century, the area of earliest settlement, around the railroad station and the Riversdale mansion, had been largely developed and homebuilders began to seek out other locations within the suburb, particularly to the north and west.

The land on which Riverdale Park was built had been part of the Riversdale Plantation established in 1801 when Henri Joseph Stier, a Belgian aristocrat, purchased 800 acres north of Bladensburg, and began to develop a plantation. After Stier's return to Belgium in 1803, completion of the Riversdale mansion and management of the plantation were taken over by his daughter Rosalie and her husband George Calvert. The Riversdale Plantation became a model of its type, and remained within the Calvert family for three generations.¹ After the death in 1864 of Charles Benedict Calvert (son of Rosalie and George Calvert), a commission was appointed to divide the plantation among his heirs and a 300-acre dower lot (as well as the 175-acre lot adjoining it to the north) was sold by Calvert heirs in 1887 to John Fox, president of the Riverdale Park Company, a New York real estate syndicate which then began to develop the suburb of Riverdale Park.²

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

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The land was platted in 1889 by D. J. Howell. Streets were laid out in a grid pattern, straddling the Washington line of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, which ran north and south through the new community and offered residents easy commuting into the Federal City to the southwest. Park spaces, and circles of green were provided in the plan and parkland was reserved around the Calvert mansion which was to be preserved "as a sacred relic of an era replete with memories."³ Streets were named for the Presidents of the United States, Washington through McKinley, ⁴ as well as for other distinguished statesman such as Clay, Lafayette and Beale.

Construction of dwellings began in the early 1890s. All were of frame construction, and reflected the popular tastes of the period, as illustrated in house catalogs of those years. Some were pyramidal-roof Foursquares, others front-gabled or cross-gabled; many were highlighted by projecting bays or corner towers, and almost all had prominent wraparound porches with jigsaw decorative details. By the turn of the century, the new suburb had approximately 60 dwellings, a Presbyterian church, a handsome Victorian schoolhouse and a railroad station; the latter two buildings were built by the Riverdale Park Company. There were two general stores, and telephone and telegraph communications were available. Concrete sidewalks were provided for the principal streets.⁵ Because of its convenient location, its efficient line of transportation into the City, its primary school, and its picturesque, tree-lined streets, Riverdale Park became one of the most desirable residential suburbs in the Washington area.

Land records indicate that the Riverdale Park Company sold Lot 10 in Block 16 to Daisy B. and Richard E. Palmer in July of 1906.⁶ Assessment records indicate that an improvement was recorded on this lot by the following year. Census records from 1910 list Richard Palmer's occupation as "insurance collector."⁸ The Palmers retained ownership of 4804 Sheridan Street (then known as Jackson Avenue) until September 1912, when the house was sold to John Urquhart. The house remained within the Urquhart family until 1949, when it was sold by heirs to Robert and Caroline Szabo. The Szabos retained ownership until 1982. The house had several owners throughout the 1980s and was purchased by its current owners, David R. Hiles and Jennie C. Reinhardt, in November 1990.⁹

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

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Section 8 Page 3

NOTES

1. See Pear, S.G., Riversdale, Historic Structures Report, Part II, History: M-NCPPC, 1979.
2. Prince George's County Land Records, JWB8:426,620; JWB12:484; JWB13:614.
3. Riverdale Park real estate promotional brochure, c. 1904.
4. Prince George's County Subdivision Plats, JWB5:747, Riverdale Park real estate promotional brochure.
5. Riverdale Park Real estate promotional brochure; see also Pearl, S. G., Victorian Pattern Book Houses in Prince George's County, Maryland, M-NCPPC, 1988.
6. See Prince George's County Land Records, 37:4.
7. See Prince George's County Assessment Records, E. D. # 16, 1907.
8. See Thirteenth Census of the United States-Population, E.D. #16.
9. See Prince George's County Land Records, 84:29; 1122:454; 5613:192 and 7803:270.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. ^{Hg.} 68-4-34

See Notes, Section #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Block 16, Lot 10, Riverdale Park

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Howard S. Berger, Architectural Historian

organization M NCPPC-Planning Dept.--Historic Pres. Sect. date June 1991

street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive telephone (301) 952-3520

city or town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
11 State Circle

Chain of Title
PE #68-4-34
Palmer House
4804 Sheridan Street

7803:270
2 November 1990
Deed

Moises Desilvia to David R. Hiles and Jennie C. Reinhardt. Grantor conveys Lot 10 in Block 16, Riverdale Park. Plat recorded JWB477:688. Same obtained from Goldome Realty Credit Corp., 30 September 1988, 7109:867.

7109:867
30 September 1988
Deed

Goldome Realty Credit Corp., to Moises Desilvia. Grantor conveys Lot 10 in Block 16. Same obtained from John C. Walker III and John W. Gill, Jr., trustees, 18 November 1987, 6960:568.

6960:568
18 November 1987
Deed

John C. Walker III and John W. Gill, Jr., to Goldome Realty Credit Corp. Grantors convey Lot 10 in Block 16. Same obtained as trustees of Deed of Trust of James E. Standish, Jr., 23 May 1984, 5911:404.

5911:404
23 May 1984
Deed of Trust

James E. Standish, Jr., to George A. Resta and Allan B. Bernstein, trustees, United Mortgagee. Grantor conveys deed of trust for Lot 10 in Block 16. Same obtained by deed from Ann W. Bellamy (now known as Ann Donals), 7 June 1984, 5911:402.

5911:402
7 June 1984
Deed

Ann W. Bellamy (now known as Ann Donals) to James E. Standish, Jr. Grantor conveys Lot 10 in Block 16. Same obtained from Caroline Szabo, 6 December 1982, 5613:192.

5613:192
6 December 1982
Deed

Caroline Szabo to Ann W. Bellamy. Grantor conveys Lot 10 in Block 16. Same obtained from Emma C. Urquhart, etal, 3 March 1949, 1122:454.

1122:454
3 March 1949
Deed

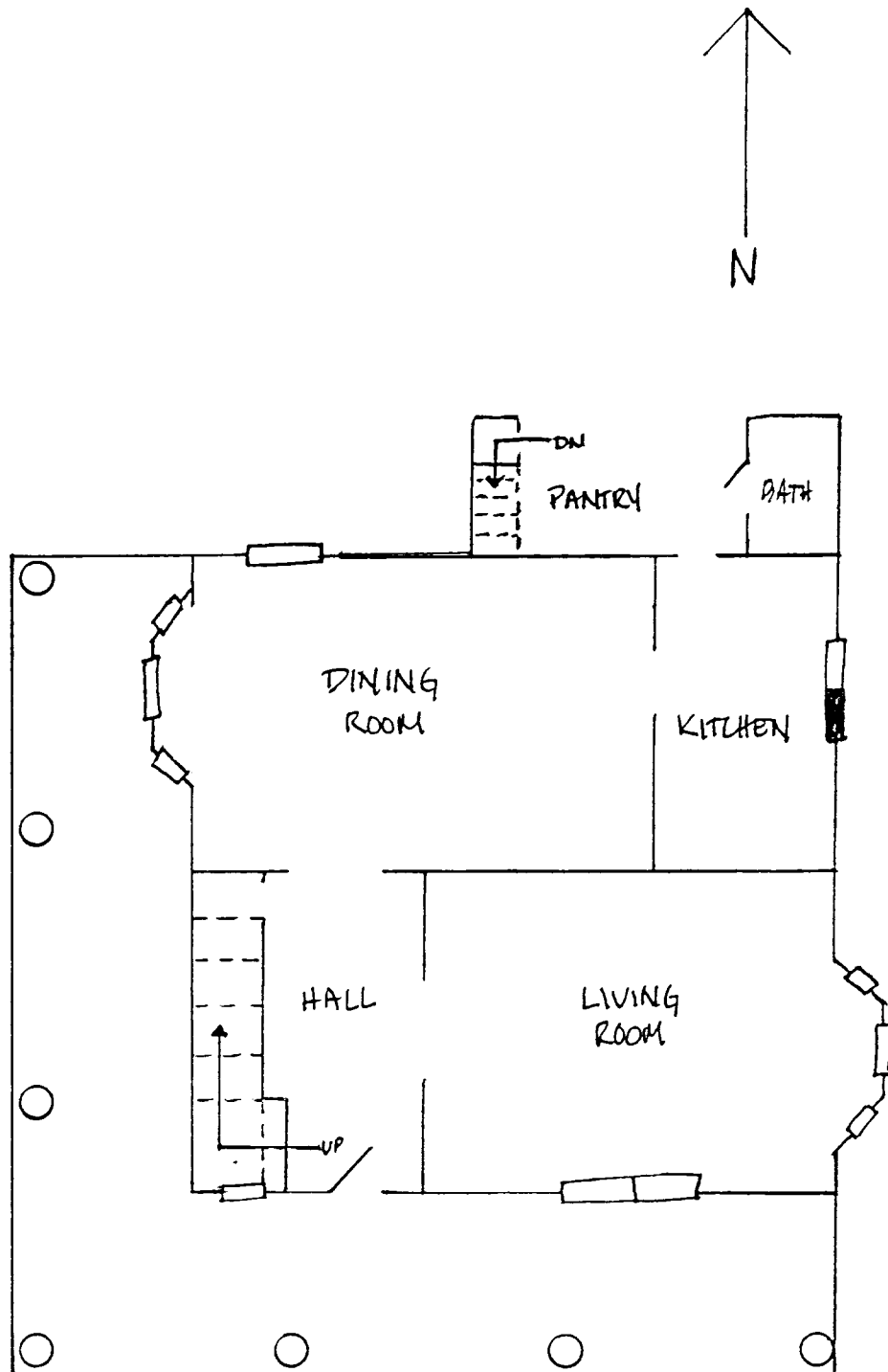
Emma C. Urquhart, etal, heirs at law John Urquhart, to Robert C. and Caroline Szabo. Grantors convey Lot 10 in Block 16. Same obtained from Daisy B. and Richard E. Palmer, 3 September 1912, 84:29.

84:29
3 September 1912
Deed

Daisy B. and Richard E. Palmer to John Urquhart. Grantors convey Lot 10 in Block 16. Same obtained from Riverdale Park Company, 19 July 1906, 37:4.

37:4
19 July 1906
Deed

Riverdale Park Company to Daisy B. Palmer.
Grantor conveys Lot 10 in Block 16 of
grantor's subdivision of Riverdale Park.
To clear title, this deed is made.



4804 SHERIDAN STREET
RIVERDALE, MARYLAND
DECEMBER 1990
— NOT TO SCALE —

I-2

P 17

I-1

RIVERDALE
POST OFFICE

6968

PARCEL 'A'
6.387A

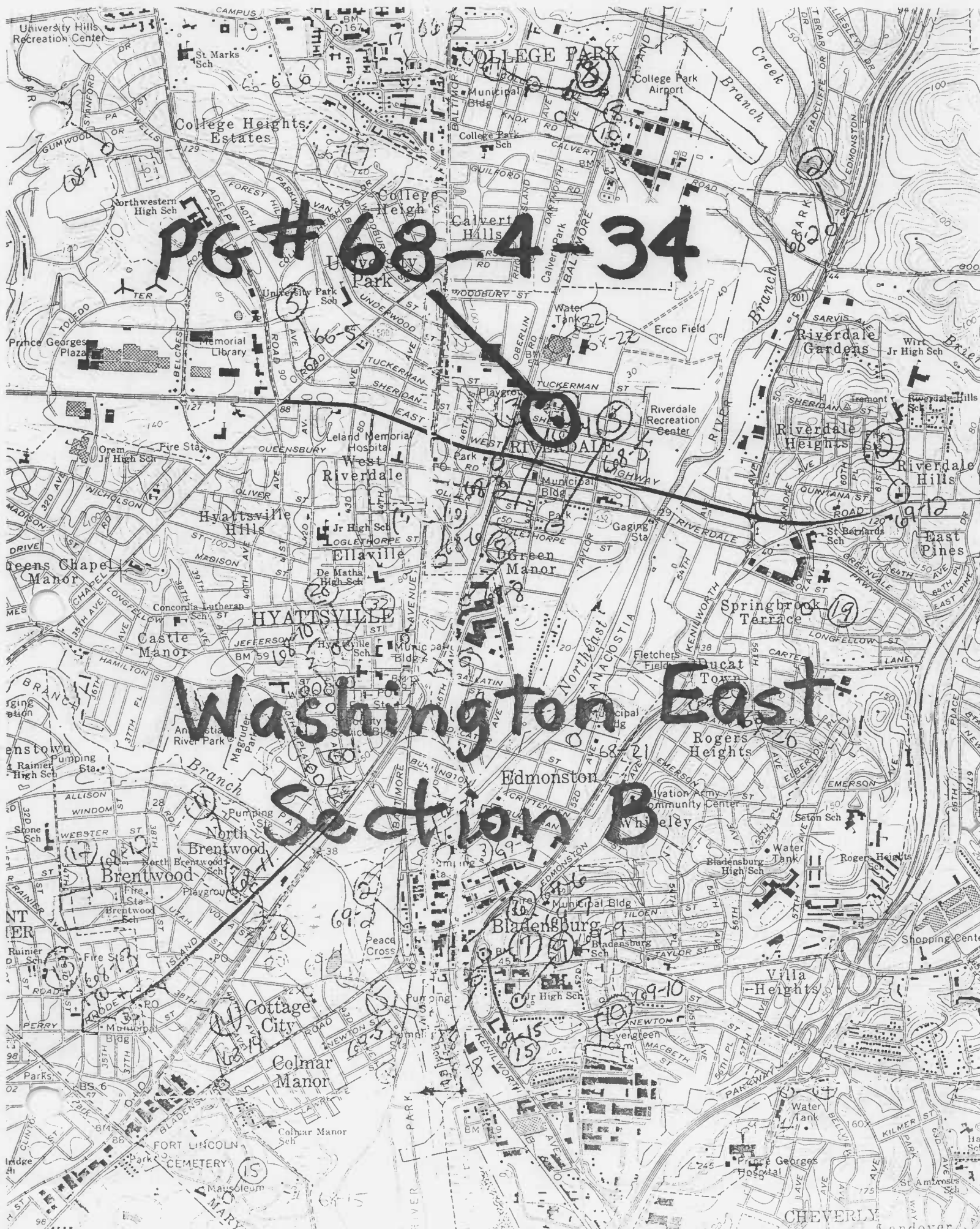
DEPT. OF ARMY
6-46
C. 3A
P. 83

RAILROAD



PG # 68-4-34

Washington East Section B





4804 Sheridan Street

Riverdale

Prince George's County, Maryland

Howard S. Berger

January 1991

From SE

NEG: MHT, ANNAPOLIS
1 of 4

PG# 68-4-34



4804 Sheridan Street
Riverdale
Prince George's County, Maryland
Howard S. Berger
January 1991
From R
2 of 4

PG# 68-4-31



4804 Sheridan Street
Riverdale

PG#68-4-34

Prince George's County, Maryland
Howard S. Berger

January 1991

Detail: Main stair

From E

3 of 4



4804 Sheridan Street

PG#68-4-34

Riverdale

Prince George's County, Maryland

Howard S. Berger

January 1991

Detail: Hall Doors & Surround

From S

4 of 4